

IS EMPEROR WILLIAM'S REIGN NEAR ITS END?

A Review of the Evidence in Support of the Widespread Rumor That He Is Insane.

Berlin, March 26.—The mental condition of the Emperor has again become the subject of the most serious discussion. New evidence of his lack of self-control are given almost daily; the old stories are revived, and the character of this exalted personage is pictured in such colors that it is scarcely possible to say any longer that he is eccentric, but rather that he is insane.

His subjects are already asking what will happen when the day comes—and it may come soon—that the sceptre must be taken from the madman's hand, and an end be made of this young monarch's career, which has been full of such grand possibilities.

When that time comes, the difficulty of the situation will be increased by the fact that William II. unites in his own person so many lordly functions. Besides being an Emperor, he is King of Prussia, eighteen times a Duke, twice a Grand Duke, ten times a Count, fifteen times a Seigneur and three times a Margrave. These minor dignities may amount to little, but they indicate to a certain extent the complex interests that must be consulted when he is deposed. In his case there will be no exact precedent to follow. Before considering the process or the result, it may be well to state the facts upon which the German people base their general belief that the reign of William II. is drawing to a close.

If the young Hohenzollern were a subject and not a monarch, and an inquiry into his sanity were ordered by a court, three kinds of evidence would be considered. First—What is the present condition of the man as it is seen by the eyes of physicians? Second—What is the medical history of his family? Third—What has he done that can throw light upon the question?

The malady from which William II. is suffering is known in the medical world as "otitis media"—chronic inflammation of the middle ear. It is a disease which can be caused by local irritation, such as the insertion of some foreign substance into the ear; it can be caused by illness, such as scarlet fever, but in most cases it is due to blood taint.

A typical case presents the following symptoms: To begin, there is a discharge from the ear. The patient is subject to convulsions. He drops to the ground as though shot; he froths at the mouth; the pupils of his eyes become dilated and the muscles of his body twitch. Then follows a moment of calm, with another spasm of violence. Another period of calm comes, and then the patient remains sane for some time. During such periods there is melancholia, with the usual suicidal impulses.

These attacks are intermittent and occur whenever the discharge from the ear is not free and rapid. As the patient grows older the attacks become more frequent and eventually end in death, the immediate cause being cancer, abscess or tumor of the brain.

The Emperor has such symptoms, but not in the extreme, although the truth is carefully concealed. He has long spells when his ailment does not bother him. These are followed, as all the world knows, by some eccentric action that arouses and excites the rumors that his mind is unbalanced. His last attack, by the most reliable authorities, has been more violent than any that has preceded it; and the result is that definite statements regarding the removal of the Emperor and the establishment of a regency are heard on all sides.

Such is the specific disease from which William II. is suffering. In addition it must be remembered that he inherits tainted blood. Although the enemies of the Emperor have accused him of follies and excesses that have injuriously affected his health, justice would direct that accusation not against him, but against his ancestors. And that brings us to the second division of the case against him—the medical history of his family.

The story dates back to Catherine II., of Russia, the Mollissima of the North, whose shameful record stains the page of history. It is as well known as there is any reason to desire that it should be. She died in 1796, leaving a terrible heritage for her descendants. Her son, Paul I., was an epileptic and more than half insane, and was murdered by some of the nobles of his empire. He left eight children, one of whom, the Princess Maria, became through marriage the Duchess of Saxe-Weimar. Her daughter, the Princess Augusta, married the Prussian Prince William, who afterward became Emperor William I. As the Empress Augusta was the grandmother of the present Emperor, it is not strange that he should have inherited some of the tainted blood of her grandmother, Catherine II.

But this is not the only strain of impurity in his blood. Queen Louise of Prussia died from cancer, although some historians claim that it was consumption. Her son, Frederick William IV., King of Prussia, died insane, the consequence of a disease of the ear, such as the present Emperor, his grand-nephew, has. Emperor Frederick, the father of William II., died from a cancer.

There is still more taint, however. Queen Victoria, the grandmother of the subject of this article, was the niece of George IV. of England. He was absolutely insane, and died under restraint.

To sum up, William II. has a father, a great-uncle, a great-grandfather, a great-grandmother, a great-grandmother and a great-grandfather, all of whom died either from insanity or blood taint. Would any court fail to consider such evidence as tremendously weighty in dealing with such a question?

When we come to consideration of the Emperor's eccentric acts, we encounter a mass of stories from which it is difficult to extract the truth. It is worth while to present the best authenticated of them. Recently there have been many grotesque stories that he had been tickling his sides in camp and had tripped them with his sword, laughing immoderately when they fell or stumbled. Of course, this may only be the exuberance of a youthful mind, but men of thirty-six and Emperors at that are supposed to be more dignified, even though they be fond of a joke. But these absurdities fit only too well with the Emperor's history. His freaks have ranged from writing poems to preaching, from painting alleged pictures to playing at archery.

test. The Emperor's "humor" is peculiar, to say the least. Take one instance of it. He was to open the Industrial Exposition at Treppow, near Berlin, and went thence in his yacht. In advance of him steamed a police launch. When the Emperor saw the little boat laboriously puffing and snorting ahead of him he gave orders to put on full steam and ran away, arriving at the exposition ten minutes before he was expected. Of course there was no one there to receive him, and he was furious.

Then he determined to write a play, and ordered the German poet, Nache, to collaborate with him. They got as far as the dramatic personae when the Emperor changed his mind and decided to draw an allegorical picture instead. He evolved an affair which he called "The Protection of the Arts and Industries by the Army."

Under an ornamental Gothic arch, there were the figures of three big-bellied, robust and matronly looking women, representing Arms, Science and Commerce. They gazed

for lese majeste and was only dissuaded after considerable argument.

Still another time he compelled the captain of the Imperial yacht to be photographed on a bicycle, with his officers surrounding him in grotesque attitudes.

One day he rehearsed the musicians who were to play before the Czar, altered the time of one of their pieces and wound up the session by correcting the architectural plans of the proposed German Lutheran Church in Jerusalem.

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suppressed for fear of creating a still worse impression at home and abroad. When such things do leak out it is usually through some woman of the court who has gossiped not wisely but too well. Then the official machinery is put in motion and a denial sent out which nobody believes.

The fact of the matter is that those nearest to the Emperor are afraid of themselves. They do not want to believe that he is otherwise than sane, and yet are as much in doubt as all the rest of the world as regards his condition. He changes so often and so quickly that they never know just what to think. One moment finds him genial and kindly and a man worthy of respect. The next finds him cross and surly and eccentric. And so it goes.

Now arises the question of what will be done when the Emperor gets to that point when his mental unsoundness shall become a matter of positive knowledge. It is a written family law of the Hohenzollerns that no one not mentally sound can remain

The council is called in one of the great rooms in the Imperial palace, and is attended by the sisters and cousins and aunts and other relatives. The Prime Minister of the State, the Chief Surgeon of the army, the family physician and one or two experts in mental diseases are also present.

The head of the family, whoever he may be, announces that the afflicted ruler is no longer fit to be King of Prussia, according to the law of the Hohenzollern family. The family physician corroborates this, and is sustained in his opinion by the other medical men present.

Then a general discussion follows. The matter is weighed pro and con, and finally the individual under discussion is pronounced mentally unsound. The head of the family makes an official statement to the Prime Minister, who in turn communicates the facts to the Bundesrath, and the Reichstag, and a regency is declared. The King is placed under restraint and the Regent assumes full control of the affairs of

Germany Is Full of Stories of His Erratic Conduct and of His Many Childish Jokes.

It is probable that should a regency become necessary Henry will call the family council, being aided and advised by the Chancellor of the empire, now Prince Hohenlohe. William II. will remain King of Prussia and Emperor of Germany as long as he lives, but he will be so in name only. He will live as does his prototype, the mad King Otto, of Bavaria, while his nation is governed by his brother. How long a man afflicted as is William II. can and will live is a matter of conjecture, but

Prince Henry is the only surviving brother of the Emperor. He is married to Princess Irene of Hesse, and through this alliance became the brother-in-law of the Czar. She is the least favored of the Hesse princesses, being excelled in personal looks and in intellect by her three sisters, the Grand Duchess Sergius of Russia, Princess Louise of Battenberg and the Princess Alix. Henry and Irene are cousins, and Bismarck was bitterly opposed to the match on this score. Henry, however, proved the stronger, and married his present consort in Charlottenburg in 1888. They live at the royal castle at Kiel with their little son, Prince Waldemar, who is said to be both deaf and dumb.

The Prince is a remarkably bad shot, and has a record of having potted two game keepers—one in Germany and one in Cortina. He is philosophical about the matter, however. Once while deer stalking near Balmoral his grandmother, Queen Victoria, asked him what success he had had.

"Oh," he replied, nonchalantly, "I haven't killed anything, but I wounded several deer." Since then he has not been invited again—for stalking purposes.

Henry is somewhat like his brother, for he is rather sensitive and apt to take offence. At the coronation of the Czar he had occasion to visit Moscow with a number of German princes. Upon his arrival in the ancient Russian capital he found that none of the Russian grand dukes were at the station to receive him. He became greatly incensed at this, and was with difficulty restrained from retreating at once to Germany. At the last moment Grand Duke Paul arrived and a scene was averted.

That night the German residents of Moscow gave a dinner to the Prince. The chairman drank the health of Prince Henry and the representative of the German Emperor and to "the Prince in his suite."

At this Prince Louis of Bavaria, eldest son of Prince Regent Luitpold, arose and protested that the German princes had not come in Henry's suite, and that they were not vassals, but allies, to the Emperor.

Henry's ire was again aroused, and he, the German Ambassador and the members of his suite at once arose and left the banquetting hall.

A RINDERPEST CURE.

Professor Koch's Latest Discovery is of Great Advantage to Cattle Raisers.

Professor Koch, the great German scientist, is now hailed as a savior by the farmers of South Africa. In that part of the world cattle are continually destroyed by the rinderpest, a terribly contagious and fatal disease. Hitherto all efforts to check it except by destroying the animals have been futile.

Professor Koch has, after many experiments, prepared a remedy consisting of serum from the blood of an animal which has recovered from the rinderpest, mixed with a minute quantity of virulent rinderpest blood.

This mixture, when injected, has immunized animals to such a degree that they were enabled to withstand an injection of 20 cubic centimetres of rinderpest blood, a ten-thousandth part of which is a fatal dose. From this fact he judges that the immunity of these animals is equal to that of a beast which has contracted rinderpest and has then recovered. It is particularly important to know that only 20 cubic centimetres of such serum are required to immunize one animal, and therefore one litre suffices for fifty head of cattle.

A second and equally important fact is that one is able to render immune healthy cattle with the bile of such as have succumbed to rinderpest. In this case only one hypodermic injection of 10 cubic centimetres are sufficient. This immunity sets in on the tenth day at latest, and is of such an extent that even four weeks afterward 40 cubic centimetres of rinderpest blood could be injected without any injurious effect. Koch therefore concludes that the immunity produced in such a manner is of an "active" nature. The local result of an injection is merely a hard, somewhat painful swelling of the size of a man's fist, which gradually disappears in the course of a few weeks, proving, however, that the bile is not in a state of decomposition, as is not uncommon when an animal suffers from rinderpest.

Both the above-mentioned facts convince him that rinderpest can be eradicated with but little difficulty and within a comparatively short time by putting these methods into practice. The methods of immunizing cattle with serum may be employed in order to separate from infected areas those tracts of country which are still free from the scourge by means of forming a broad belt between them in which all the cattle are inoculated with the vaccine. The protective properties of the bile will be of inestimable service. In infected parts nearly every case of rinderpest supplies a greater or lesser quantity of vaccine for those animals which are still healthy.

Professor Koch urges the importance of bringing this method immediately to the notice of those cattle owners whose animals are suffering from or threatened by the disease, as he is sure thousands of cattle may daily be saved by its application. The modus operandi is very simple in both these methods.

THE USEFUL BABOON.

It is Said That He Can Do Better Work Than a Dog in Hunting.

So far as speed is concerned the dog, of course, has the advantage, but for keenness of scent, for the instinct of finding edible plants and hidden water, and as a sentinel against every kind of danger, the baboon is unequalled.

Le Vaillant, an African traveller, gives an account of a tame baboon which accompanied him on some of his journeys. "By his cries," he says, "the animal warned us of the approach of an enemy before my dogs discovered it. The dogs were so accustomed to his voice that they used to go to sleep, and I was at first vexed with them for deserting their duties. When he once had given the alarm, they would stop to watch for his signal, and on the least motion of his eyes, or the shaking of his head, I have seen them all rush forward to the quarter where his looks were directed.

Emperor William II.



Prince Henry.
PROBABLE REGENT.

The Crown Prince.
THE EMPEROR'S ELDEST SON.

during his whole stay.

On another occasion he wandered through the streets of Potsdam at midnight and dismissed all the sentries he encountered. Then he went to a young lieutenant on watch, who had dozed, and waking him, thundered out:

"Call out your guards."

Of course there were no guards within hearing, and the lieutenant was harshly reprimanded.

It is customary on the last night of the year to "bonnet" everybody within sight. "Bonneting" consists of smashing a person's hat down over the ears and is considered a great joke in Berlin. Now it so happened that one crusty old individual did not see the force of such a proceeding and he prepared a special hat for the occasion. Beneath his head gear he wore a leather skull cap, into which he had fitted pointed spikes (with the business ends upward).

As luck would have it, the Emperor decided that he would like to go "bonneting" the night in question, and he did. The very first man he encountered happened to be the gentleman with the trick hat. Down came the Emperor's sound hand. He gave a yell worthy of a Comanche Indian and went straight back to his palace to have his wounds dressed. Then, instead of taking his medicine like a man, he raved and fumed and wanted to have the innocent victim of his humor tried

in fright at some evidently bad and wicked persons emerging from a damp cloud in the foreground. The central figure was a mailed and armed man.

But perhaps one of his strangest acts was done one night while visiting the North Cape on his yacht. He piped all hands aloft, and, arrayed in a snuffbox, he preached on the goodness of the Almighty in giving to the German nation such a ruler as himself.

The next day he went off in a small boat looking for the whale that is said to have swallowed Jonah. It managed to elude the Imperial hunter, but the latter harpooned one unlucky whale and retired to his yacht in triumph. It is easy to speak of such a feat as an evidence of insanity; yet there are many sane young men who would like a chance to harpoon a whale.

Next he wrote some music, following this with a poem in blank verse entitled "A Song to Aegir." The press praised the work as in duty bound, but censor compels the statement that it was not a great poem. It is related that an unfortunate individual remarked in one of the numerous "bierstuben" of Berlin that the poem was "biersstube," and that he was sentenced to five months' imprisonment for lese majeste. Whether this treatment made him reconsider his opinion of the poem, history says not.

These are only a few of his vagaries, for the greater number of them are carefully

on the throne of Prussia as King. There is a precedent in the case of Frederick William IV., who began to reign June 8, 1859. Early in 1857 his ear trouble took such an aggravated form that the report was spread broadcast that he had suffered from a stroke of paralysis. When he became hopelessly insane a few months later another report was circulated that he had another stroke, and on October 7, 1858, his brother William was appointed Regent. Frederick still remained King in name, but was taken to Meran, where he was treated to a course of both of lemon juice. This did not help him, and he died January 2, 1862. As he had no children, William succeeded him as King.

In the present instance all this is changed. William II. is also Emperor of Germany—the first one of the new German Empire. Does the family law of the Hohenzollern apply to the Emperor of Germany? And can a regent be appointed without the consent of the Kings of Saxony and Bavaria and the rulers of the minor States?

The process of appointing a regent for Prussia is a simple one. Whenever the state of the ruler becomes such that there can be no longer any doubt as to his mental unfitness for the exalted position he occupies, the next of lineal descent, if he be of age, calls a family council. Should he be in the minority, as is the case now, upon the ruler's brother falls the unpleasant

task.

In the present case the next of line to the Emperor is his eldest son, Frederick William, a boy of fourteen, who is being educated as a soldier. He is a lively lad, full of fun, in good health, and showing, so far, none of the taint of the Hohenzollerns. This is probably due to his mother, a Princess from Schleswig-Holstein, who was selected by Bismarck as the helpmate of the then future ruler of Germany. It was at first proposed to wed the young man to a British Princess, but Bismarck put his foot down on the project.

"The race of the Hohenzollerns has been spoiled enough by British blood," he is reported to have said. "This Prince shall have a Holstein cow."

As the Crown Prince is not yet of age, the Emperor's brother, Prince Henry, the idol of the German nation, will have to become Regent, should the necessity arise. He is a dashing sailor, a good fellow and has not a semblance of either "swollen head" or insanity. He is immensely popular and democratic, and there are many Germans who would hail the thought with delight that he become their ruler.

Henry is much taller than his elder brother, wears a Vandike beard like his cousin, the Czar of Russia, and is a sailor every inch. He is the practical head of the German Navy, and has on many occasions represented his Imperial brother.

the older he gets the more severe will the outbreaks become.

There is one phase of the affair that will be of interest to the believer in the supernatural. As all students of German history know, the Imperial castle at Berlin is haunted by a lady ghost, who dresses in white and appears only when some catastrophe is about to befall the house of Hohenzollern. Just why she is compelled to do this no one knows with any degree of certainty. There are any number of legends extant, telling her sad and fearful history, the principal one being that she is the wraith of an unfaithful wife of one of the original Hohenzollerns.

Be that as it may, she appeared about six months ago and gave William a bad case of the "nerves." In fact, many Germans have availed with some anxiety the result of her nocturnal visit. Time alone can verify her mute prophecy of trouble in the reigning family of the German Empire.

If William II. be sane he give a pretty good imitation of a man mentally unbalanced. If he be the latter the aspect is not a pleasant one. The idea that a lunatic can plunge the whole of Europe into a war in which millions will lose their lives and in which there will be engendered enough hatred and venom to last for all eternity is not a pleasant one. Germany and Europe can only wait—and perhaps hope.